1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and

subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan SRIS 0101;

wherein the sponge comprises an underlayer and a surface layer, and the Asker C hardness of the surface layer is not less than 40; and

wherein the surface layer of the sponge comprises a resin having a 100% modulus of not less than 45kg.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin is a polycarbonate type polyurethane resin.

5. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and

subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan SRIS 0101;

wherein the surface layer of the sponge comprises a spongy body having a mean opening diameter of not less than 30μm.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface scrubbing is carried out using an alkaline aqueous solution having a pH of not less than 8.

7. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and

subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan SRIS 0101;

wherein the surface scrubbing is carried out using an acidic aqueous solution having a pH of not more than 5.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to texturing before the surface scrubbing is carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to chemical strengthening after the surface scrubbing has been carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to texturing and then to chemical strengthening before the surface scrubbing is carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.